

20. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 18, wherein prior to said red blood cell [separation and] collection step [s, and separate from said platelet separation and collection steps], said method further comprises a red blood cell collection set-up phase including:
 [separating red blood cells from said blood within said blood processing vessel;]
 establishing a hematocrit of at least about 75% within said separated red blood cells within said blood processing vessel and an AC ratio within said blood at about 8.

21. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 20, said method further comprising:
 maintaining said hematocrit and AC ratio during said red blood cell separation, flowing
 and collection steps.

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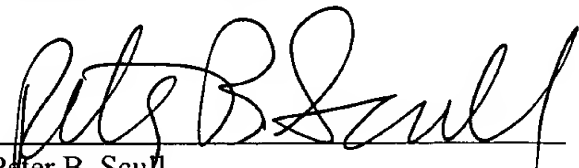
REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment presenting amendments to all twenty-one claims which shall then be pending in this continuation application. Entry of these amendments prior to examination and calculation of the filing fee is thus respectfully requested.

If prosecution can be expedited in any fashion by telephonic conference, the Examiner is thus urged to call the undersigned representative at the below-printed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

December 4, 2000
 Date


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